

**The original documents are located in Box 13, “8/2/75 - Dinner Toast, Bucharest, Romania” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

DINNER TOAST

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1975

- 1 -

MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. CEAUSESCU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY VISIT TO ROMANIA IS A SOURCE OF GREAT PLEASURE.

BECAUSE OF SUMMIT LEVEL MEETINGS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND

THE GROWING NUMBER OF CONTACTS BETWEEN SPECIALISTS AND

AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WE HAVE IN RECENT YEARS WITNESSED

STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.

OUR TALKS TODAY REAFFIRMED IN THE MOST POSITIVE TERMS

OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN CONTINUING TO BUILD OUR EXCELLENT BILATERAL  
RELATIONSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, MY VISIT TO EUROPE IS OF SIGNIFICANCE

FOR ANOTHER REASON. WE BOTH PARTICIPATED IN THE EUROPEAN SECURITY

CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI. AS YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE POINTED OUT

ON MANY OCCASIONS, THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE -- SOCIAL,

TECHNOLOGICAL, GLOBAL IN DIMENSION -- AFFECT ALL NATIONS.

SO CAN THE RESULTS OF HELSINKI.

WE WELCOME THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BEING FORGED

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. THIS IS A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH ROMANIA  
CONTINUES TO ASSUME A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE.

THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

WILL NOT SOLVE EVERYTHING. NO PARTICIPATING COUNTRY ACHIEVED  
ALL OF ITS NATIONAL GOALS. BUT THE OVERALL RESULT SUGGESTED  
A PREFERENCE FOR COOPERATION OVER CONFRONTATION.

THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ROMANIA, AND THOSE OF THE 33 OTHER PARTICIPANTS CAN BE VERY USEFUL IF DEEDS EQUAL WORDS. NOT THE LEAST RESULT IS TO SHOW THAT SMALLER NATIONS CAN MAKE AN INDEPENDENT, EQUAL AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE'S WORK, THE UNITED STATES VIEWS IT AS ONLY A STEP IN A CONTINUING PROCESS.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE WORK TOGETHER TO LESSEN THE CHANCES FOR CONFLICT. LET ALL NATIONS COOPERATE TO LESSEN HUMAN POVERTY, HUNGER AND SUFFERING. THE CHALLENGES WE FACE REQUIRE THE BEST EFFORTS AND IDEAS OF ALL CONCERNED. ALL NATIONS HAVE A LEGITIMATE PART TO PLAY IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. THIS RIGHT IS BEYOND DISPUTE.

MR. PRESIDENT, MY COUNTRY FULLY RECOGNIZES THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF MANKIND, THE NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND A GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE CONCERNS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE A FULL AND FAIR CONTRIBUTION. WE LOOK TO THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO JOIN WITH US IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

ROMANIA WON THE ADMIRATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR HER INDEPENDENT VIEWS AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD UNDERSTANDING. I AM CONFIDENT ROMANIA WILL CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN HELPING TO FIND PRACTICAL AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW.

MR. PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF MRS. FORD AND MYSELF,

I THANK YOU AND YOUR GRACIOUS WIFE FOR YOUR WARM HOSPITALITY.

I RAISE MY GLASS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO THE BUILDING

OF A MORE SECURE AND PROSPEROUS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN WHICH

BOTH OUR PEOPLES WILL FIND PEACE AND PROGRESS.

END OF TEXT

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MR. PRESIDENT, I CAME TO ROMANIA FOR ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON. THIS COMPLEX WORLD IS MARKED BY DIVERSITY. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE TIES WITH A COUNTRY THAT SHOWS SUCH INDEPENDENCE AND VIGOR. WE DO NOT ALWAYS AGREE. BUT WE VALUE THE COURAGE OF A NATION THAT WANTS TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO A BETTER WORLD BY ITS OWN SPECIAL EFFORTS.

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